

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00211 010845Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-05 MMO-04 SS-15 SP-02 ABF-01
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R 010500Z FEB 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5599

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0211

FOR NEA/EX AND NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AFSP, AMGT, AODE, IZ
SUBJ: STAFFING AND OPERATIONS OF USINT BAGHDAD

REF STATE 3165

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY READ REFTEL, WHICH DISCUSSES
PERSONNEL AND STAFFING PROBLEMS FACING THE DEPT AND POSTS
ABROAD. WE RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AND IT IS IN
THIS CONTEXT THAT WE REQUEST CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL
AMERICAN POSITION IN BAGHDAD.

2. USINT HAS EXPERIENCED A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN
AMERICAN STAFF, WHICH HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN LESS
THAN TWO YEARS. WE NOW HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION
OF TWO OFFICE BUILDINGS AND 13 RESIDENCES. IN ADDITION,
WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR RENOVATION OF THE CHANCERY
RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM. THIS VASTLY INCREASED WORKLOAD HAS INEVITABLY
FALLEN ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, WHICH HAS BEEN
REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK WITH
NO INCREASE IN STAFF. THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE RESULTED
CAN NO LONGER BE DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY. IF USINT
IS TO MAINTAIN A WELL-RUN AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00211 010845Z

PROVIDING THE KIND AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT THAT IS REQUIRED,
WE MUST HAVE A GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER ASSIGNED.

3. THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE
CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL POSITION AND THE ASSIGNMENT
OF AN INCUMBENT. REALIZING THAT THIS REQUIRES TIME,
BOTH FOR STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION, USINT WOULD LIKE TO

PROPOSE AN INTERIM SOLUTION AS A MEANS OF COPING WITH THE PROBLEM. WE REQUEST THE ASSIGNMENT OF A TDY GOS WHO CAN ASSIST US IN ORGANIZING THE MAJOR EFFORT THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING OUR GENERAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES UP TO PAR, TRAINING THE LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INVENTORY AND PROPERTY CONTROL PROCEDURES, PROCUREMENT, PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES, MOTOR POOL OPERATIONS, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. WE PROPOSE THAT BAGHDAD BE GRANTED TWO PIT POSITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES WHO WILL WORK DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE TDY GOS, WHO SHOULD ARRIVE EARLY IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE GROUNDWORK. BY THIS MEANS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE WORK BACKLOG CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF.

4. AN ADDITIONAL PIT POSITION IS REQUESTED FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. DURING THIS PERIOD, APPLICANTS FOR NIV'S INCREASE 66 PERCENT OVER THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. EVEN THOUGH ALL CONSULAR PERSONNEL WILL BE AT WORK DURING THAT PERIOD, THE EFFECTIVE PROCESSING OF THESE APPLICANTS REQUIRES ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. WHILE A FULL-TIME POSITION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS SEASONAL WORKLOAD, A PIT POSITION WILL CONTRIBUTE MARKEDLY TO THE EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF THE SECTION'S WORK.

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PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00211 010845Z

5. WE ARE AWARE OF THE CONFLICTING DEMANDS UPON THE SHRINKING RESOURCES OF THE DEPT, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL AND STAFFING. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOVE ARE THE RESULT OF A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF OUR SITUATION, AND REFLECT THE CONSIDERED JUDGMENT OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS GENERATED BY THE INCREASE IN OUR ACTIVITIES.
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